

**Patent claims**

1. A combination of:
  - (a) one or more partially neutralized esters of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid; and
  - (b)  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid.
2. The combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the partially neutralized ester of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid chosen is glyceryl stearate citrate.
3. A cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation comprising a combination as claimed in claim 1.
4. The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 3, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 0.1 - 20% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.
5. The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 4, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 0.5 - 10% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.
6. The cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation as claimed in claim 5, wherein the partially neutralized ester(s) of monoglycerides and/or diglycerides of saturated fatty acids with citric acid is present in the preparation in a concentration of 1.0 - 5.0% by weight based on the total weight of the preparation.
7. A method of caring for skin comprising topically applying to said skin an effective amount therefor of a combination according to claim 1.

8. A method of caring for skin comprising topically applying to said skin an effective amount therefor of a cosmetic or dermatological oil-in-water emulsion preparation according to claim 3.